

BOILING WATER.

It is Not Always Hot and Sometimes May Be Barely Heated.

If you scald yourself with the teakettle you are apt to think that boiling water is a pretty hot proposition. But boiling water is not always very hot, and this is the way it happens. When water boils ordinarily it is because great heat has separated the tiny particles of the water, forcing upward and outward in lively bubbles the air which is contained in them. This is done in spite of the downward pressure of the atmosphere. After the water has become hot enough to boil it can get no hotter, because the air escapes as fast as it is sufficiently heated to do so.

There are places on the earth where the pressure of the atmosphere upon the water is so slight that it requires but little heat to push apart the particles and set free the air bubbles which are confined in the water, so it begins to boil before it becomes very hot. It ought hardly to be called cold water, perhaps, but it is certainly far from being as hot as ordinarily boiling water. This state of things is found on all high mountain tops, as the atmosphere grows weaker and its pressure less as one ascends.

A man traveling at a great elevation in the Andes mountains put some potatoes in a pot of water over a hot fire. The water began to boil almost immediately, but the potatoes did not cook. All the afternoon and all the night the water bubbled and boiled, but still the potatoes were not cooked. The boiling water was not hot enough.

WILSON'S PROGRESSIVISM SHOWN BY HIS ACTIONS

President Wilson's progressive ideas proven in legislation urged by him and materialized into law should appeal to the good sense of the true Progressives who were of that party because of the faith that was in them.

Equally do some of the Wilson appointments show his progressive tendencies. Notable among these are the appointments of Brandeis to the Supreme Court and Parry and Rublee to the Federal Trade Commission.

Let it be remembered too that these appointments were not forced or made for political reasons, but for merit and on principle. Rublee's confirmation was prevented in the Senate by Senator Gallinger, leader of the Republican "Old Guard."

Difficult will be the way of any Progressive applicant for office, even a Progressive Republican, if Hughes is elected; he will have to run the gauntlet of the "Old Guard" before appointment and again in the Senate for confirmation. And the same difficulties will beset progressive legislation.

Safety First.

At Sunday service in one of the Georgia colored churches the preacher was giving an eloquent discussion of the creation, and the congregation was evidently greatly interested.

"First, de Lawd made de heaven and de earth, and all that in them is," he exclaimed vehemently. "Den He made man—He made him of de dust of de earth, and stood him up against a fence to dry."

At this point Deacon Johnson rose from the back of the room and asked suddenly:

"Brudder Jackson, who made dat er fence?"

"Put dat man out! Two or three mo' such questions as dat would spoil all de 'eulogy in de worl'."

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Cows in the Silo.

Mr. James A. Mudd is building a silo on his farm and had excavated to a depth of three and one-half feet and concreted the excavation. The other morning he was considerably worried on finding that during the night two of his cows had, in the darkness of the night, fallen into the pit. He was at a loss to figure a way of getting them out. He thought of a gangway and block and tackle and had about decided on the latter when a colored man who

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works for him solved the problem in the easiest way imaginable. He brought six bales of straw and formed them into steps, and the imprisoned cows didn't need any coaxing or driving, but at once walked up the improvised steps to freedom.—[Marion Falcon.

CROWNS IN BATTLE LINE ARE NOW SELDOM WORN

Monarchs no longer ride forth crowned to battle as did Richard III. to his fatal fight on Bosworth Field. Nevertheless even to-day crowns figure in the spectacular side of war more often than is commonly supposed. The King of Italy, for instance, although he does not, of course, always wear it, carries his crown with him wherever he goes and frequently dons it when he reviews his troops on ceremonial parades.

This is in accordance with the custom and tradition of his house. The crown is supposed to render its wearer immune from harm, because inclosed within the gold is a tiny circle of iron said to have been made from a nail out of the true cross.

The aged King Peter, of Serbia, has twice during the present war appeared robed and crowned before his armies on the battlefield.

King Ferdinand of Roumania—who must not be confounded with the ruler of Bulgaria, who is also named Ferdinand—will probably go crowned to war, if he goes at all, precisely as did his two predecessors, Prince Alexander Couza and his uncle, King Charles I. But then the royal crown of Roumania is unique in so far as it forms a genuine badge of the nation's freedom from alien tyranny. It is made from the metal of Turkish cannon captured at Plevna by the Roumanians in 1877 and in shape and appearance it suggests the helmet of a soldier rather than a diadem.—[Youth's Companion.

First Load of New Tobacco.

Sam Brown, a Tennessee tobacco grower, residing near Dukedom, has the distinction of bringing the first load of this year's crop of tobacco to town this season. None of the buyers here was expecting tobacco at this early a date and were not on the lookout for it. But Johnny Wilson made the best bid on it and took it at 9½ and 4c.

More tobacco is expected to come in now in dribbles for the next few weeks, when the season will begin to open in full blast.—[Mayfield Messenger.

WEARING WOODEN SHOES CUSTOM OF THE FUTURE

Speakers at the convention of the Illinois shoe dealers uttered an interesting prophecy:

"Unless the world develops a substitute for leather within two years America will be the next wooden-shoe nation."

It is only 10 centuries ago—yesterday in the minds of those who view time broadly—that all the toilers of civilization wore wooden shoes. Many of Europe's most honest feet wear them now. If we come to wooden shoes there should be no shame about it. Perhaps the change, instead of bringing harm, would bring goodness and joy.

Make everybody wear wooden shoes and the porch climber would join the roc and the dodo, or else the Y. M. C. A. The efficiency expert, able no longer to slip noiselessly about your business, would be more occupationless than Othello. The pussyfoot could annoy no more with his sickening stealth. Men would come home earlier of nights, soberly clanking oak upon pine as they mounted the front stoop. Clog dancing would be restored to its proper place in the arts. All the world would click a xylophonic tune. Mahogany shoes, made from old pianos, would take us out on Sunday. The ladies could have their number three enameled in pink.

But what would become of Hon. Bill Stone, of Missouri?—[New York Sun.

Useful Knowledge.

"Some of the grandest discoveries of the ages," said the great scientist, honorably, "have been the result of accidents."

"I can readily believe that," said the fair lady. "I once made one that way myself."

The great man blinked in amazement.

"May I ask what it was?"

"Certainly," replied the fair one. "I found that by keeping a bottle of ink handy you can use a fountain pen just like any other pen—without all the trouble of filling it."

The largest Christian Endeavor Society in the world is to be found in the heart of Africa, where nearly two thousand young people of the Bantu race are united in an enthusiastic organization.

Blissful ignorance is the sort the other fellow has in a horse trade.

RED TAPE IN JAPAN

They Have as Fine a Brand There as We Have Ourselves.

BUT IT IS NOT VERY COSTLY.

An Experience With the Circumlocution Office That Would Have Been Amusing to the Innocent Victim but For the Dread of the Expense.

There are many curious customs in Japan, and many things are done in that interesting empire according to methods that would be called topsy turvy when judged by the standards of civilization in western lands. But in one respect the Japanese are fully abreast of any of the occidental countries, and that is in their ability to manipulate official red tape. The following incident, recounted by a correspondent of the Youth's Companion, admirably illustrates the point. He writes:

"Although I have lived long in Japan, I have tried to keep pace with western ideas. A corner in my compound bears witness to the fact that I once tried to make practical application of the modern maxim 'Help the poor to help themselves.' It worked out in a rather surprising way. A beggar asked me for money one morning, and I saw a way to help him without, as the expression goes, 'pauperizing' him.

"There was a bad place just inside the compound gate that needed to be filled in with stones, of which there were plenty on the seashore near by. Here was a man who could transfer the stones to the compound for the 30 sen (15 cents) that he had asked of me. The man fell in with the plan cheerfully and set to work.

"The job was about completed to his satisfaction and mine when a policeman, who appeared on the scene, asked my man if he had received permission to remove the stones. The workman referred the officer to me, and I had to confess that I had not thought it necessary. Evidently the officer thought otherwise, for I was politely but firmly told that I might secure a permit by applying at the city hall.

"To the city hall I went, knowing that it is not wise to trifle with the regulations of the police department. From there I was referred to the provincial building. As I was personally known to the governor of the province, I sent my card into him, only to learn that he was absent. The lieutenant governor, however, said he would be glad to receive me. That courteous gentleman was going to pass the whole thing by, but thought it well first to speak of it to the department of public works.

"Now, the department of public works had an efficient head, who believed in letting nothing go at loose ends. He announced that I must fill in a certain form in duplicate, making formal application for the stones. Then two maps would have to be drawn, showing where the stones had been found and the place to which I wished to remove them.

"The board of public works stood ready to make the maps—at my expense. There was nothing to do except to agree to this arrangement, since I had already had the stones moved. I thanked the lieutenant governor for his assistance and withdrew.

"In a day or two a messenger came with the maps and forms requiring my signature. After that they were sent to the city hall. Then another messenger took them to the governor for his signature. One set was filed at the city hall and the other at the office of the executive.

"In due time notification came by special messenger that I was permitted to remove the stones—which every one knew I had done a week before. All that prevented me from thoroughly enjoying the whole affair was the thought of the bill that I should receive from the department of public works.

"After several weeks of suspense I was notified to appear before the treasurer, at city hall, to pay my indebtedness to the municipality. Armed with my bank book, I appeared at city hall. What was my surprise and relief to find that the bill for all this red tape and infinite trouble amounted to 11 sen, equal to about 5½ cents in good American money."

Value of an Inch of Rain.

Every inch of rainfall above four inches in the Dakotas, California, Washington, Kansas and Nebraska in May and June means an increase of \$15,000,000 in the wheat crop. Every inch of rainfall above three inches in July in Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, Ohio and Nebraska increases the value of the corn crop by \$100,000,000. These figures are compiled by E. J. Cragoe for the Journal of Geography.

Hollow Shafts.

By careful experiments it has been proved that a solid column subject to bending strains is no stronger than a hollow one. Consequently all iron shafts are made hollow, and the steel shafts which drive the screws of steamships have a hole bored down the center so that the weight may be reduced.

Penny Weddings.

Until 1645 marriage feasts, known as "penny weddings," were held in Scotland. Each guest paid a penny or a small sum of money to defray the expenses of the feast. If any money was left over it went toward the furnishing of the new home.—Exchange.

Idleness wastes a fortune in half the time that industry makes it.—Samuel Smiles.

MYSTERY OF MERCURY.

An Unknown Factor That Causes the Planet's Erratic Motion.

The planet of Mercury is the smallest of the major planets and the nearest to the sun, which it circles in a little less than three months. It reaches its greatest distance from the sun at periods about sixty days apart. During the year Mercury is morning star three times and evening star three times. Owing to its nearness to the sun it is never visible for more than a period of about two hours after sunset or the same length of time before sunrise.

The eccentricity of its orbit is greater than that of any other major planet; its greatest and its least distance from the sun differ by nearly fifteen million miles. According to A. W. McCurdy of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the most remarkable characteristic in the motion of Mercury is that when it is nearest to the sun it travels faster than it should if it moved only by the attraction of the known bodies of the solar system.

Astronomers have long sought an explanation of the accelerated motion. Some believe that there are other planets at present unknown between Mercury and the sun—bodies that although numerous are too small to be seen. The movements of Mercury indicate an influence that might be accounted for by the presence of another planet revolving within its orbit. If such a planet really exists, there should come a time when it will appear as a dark spot moving across the face of the sun.

Another way to detect the presence of new planets in the vicinity of the sun is to take observations during a total eclipse. If there are no clouds at such a time the stars become visible as the sun disappears. During the total eclipse of the sun in 1878 one observer saw an object that he thought might be the long sought planet, but no other astronomer has been able to confirm the discovery, and many now believe that the hidden source of the unusual movement of Mercury must be looked for elsewhere than in the orbit of the planet.

LIFE OF THE GUNS.

It Depends Upon How Long the Linings Can Resist Erosion.

The life of a gun depends upon the progress of erosion, which sooner or later is certain to impair the accuracy of fire. Erosion is caused by the action of the explosive gases at high temperature and pressure.

According to the Iron Age, the hot gases cause a thin film of steel to absorb heat. The film expands and becomes set. Upon the release of the pressure it contracts, which causes minute cracks that grow larger with every discharge. As they increase in size they form passageways for more hot gas, and that tends to enlarge them still further. The inner surface thus becomes roughened and the bands begin to corrode. Finally the bore becomes so enlarged that it allows the gases to escape. The shell does not then acquire its proper rotation, and its flight becomes erratic.

All guns except small ones are now constructed with linings in the tube which, when the bore is worn out, are removed and replaced by new ones. The cost of relining a gun is approximately 30 per cent of the cost of the gun. There appears to be no limit to the number of times that a gun can be relined.

The small arms used in this country are considered to be worn out after 5,000 to 7,500 rounds have been fired. Small naval guns can be fired about 1,000 times before they are regarded as worn out. Large twelve inch and fourteen inch naval guns are considered to have a life on one lining of from 150 to 200 rounds.

Low velocity guns, such as howitzers and mortars, have correspondingly longer lives than high velocity guns of the same caliber, because the pressures they develop, and hence the temperatures, are lower.

Use of "a" and "an."

Do most educated people say "a unique example" or "an unique example"? In deference to the rule they probably write "an," but if you notice their pronunciation, when they are talking naturally and not thinking of how they pronounce, they will almost invariably say "a." And this is quite natural, for "unique" begins with a consonant. It is pronounced "yunique." Similarly most people say both "a history" and "a historical fact," unless they drop the consonant "h" and say "an 'historical fact.'"—London Chronicle.

Unforeseen.

Helen was attending her first party. When refreshments were served she refused a second helping to ice cream with a polite "No, thank you," although her look was wistful.

"Oh, do have some more ice cream, dear," her hostess urged.

"Mother told me I must say 'No, thank you,'" exclaimed the little girl, "but I don't believe she knew the dishes were going to be so small."—New York Post.

Vain Search.

"I've got about enough of that old scalawag."

"Easy, son. Always try to see some good in everybody."

"I have tried. But it gets tiresome when you have to look for it with a microscope."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Another Difference.

"I don't see any difference between you and a trained nurse except the uniform," said her sick husband.

"And the salary," she added thoughtfully.

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